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of Liverpool, the Free Churches, Liverpool men of note, . . . and last, but not least, the Cunard Company, should all have contributed toward making the congress a success, conspired to turn the congress into a record one. We congratulate the Liverpool committee, too, upon the excellence of the local arrangements."

### American School Peace League Essay Contest.

The announcement of the winners in the Peace Prize Essay contest for 1914, held under the auspices of the American School Peace League, was made at the annual meeting at St. Paul, July 9. The successful contestants were as follows:

*Normal Schools.*—First prize, Miss Emma Feldbaum; second prize, Miss Ida L. Williamson, both of the State Normal School, Trenton, N. J.; third prize, Mr. S. J. Skinner, of the State Normal School, Ypsilanti, Mich.

*Honorable Mention.*—Miss Nellie O. Schrader, Brockport, N. Y.; Miss Jeanette MacMillan, Tallahassee, Fla.; Miss Helen E. Nelson, Duluth, Minn.; Miss Virginia Brand, Springfield, Mo.

*Secondary Schools.*—First prize, Miss Helen Monat, Wadleigh High School, New York city; second prize, Miss Elizabeth Sappenfield, Evansville High School, Indiana; third prize, Max A. Jordan, Stuttgart, Germany.

*Honorable Mention.*—Joe F. Thomas, Lincoln, Neb.; Elcanon Isaacs, Cincinnati, O.; Mervyn Crobaugh, San José, Cal.; Oscar Chester, Camp Hill, Ala.

The prizes for these contests are given by the Misses Seabury, of New Bedford, Mass.; the three prizes in each set are \$75, \$50, and \$25.

The announcement for the contest for 1915 follows:

#### PEACE PRIZE CONTEST UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL PEACE LEAGUE.

##### *Open to Pupils of All Countries.*

Two sets of prizes, to be known as the Seabury Prizes, are offered for the best essays on one of the following subjects:

1. The Opportunity and Duty of the Schools in the International Peace Movement. Open to seniors in normal schools.

2. The Influence of the United States in Advancing the Cause of International Peace. Open to seniors in secondary schools.

Three prizes of \$75, \$50, and \$25 will be given for the best essays in both sets.

This contest is open for the year 1915 to the pupils of the secondary and normal schools in all countries.

*Contest Closes March 1, 1915.*

Essays must not exceed 5,000 words (a length of 3,000 words is suggested as desirable), and must be written, preferably in typewriting, on one side only of paper, 8 x 10 inches, with a margin of at least 1¼ inches. Manuscripts not easily legible will not be considered.

The name of the writer must not appear on the essay, which should be accompanied by a letter giving the writer's name, school, and home address, and sent to Mrs. Fannie Fern Andrews, secretary, American School Peace League, 405 Marlborough street, Boston, Mass., not later than March 1, 1915. Essays should be mailed flat (not rolled).

The award of the prizes will be made at the annual meeting of the league in July, 1915.

Information concerning literature on the subject may be obtained from the secretary.

### Book Reviews.

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO THE CAUSES AND CONDUCT OF THE BALKAN WARS. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D. C. 413 pages, with nine appendices, 9 maps, 51 illustrations. Free upon request.

This report, reference to the preliminary pages of which has already been made in these columns, is now complete. It is a contribution to current history by six disinterested, scholarly publicists, one from each of the following countries: Austria, France, Russia, Germany, Great Britain, and the United States. This commission was organized by the Division of Intercourse and Education of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The aim of the commission, as set forth in the preface by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, director of the division, was to study the Balkan wars at first hand, with impartial care that public opinion might be formed about the conditions of an international war in our day. It does not aim to be a complete story of the Balkan wars. So far as we know, however, it is the only single volume treatment in English of the origin of the two wars, the nature of their prosecution, together with their economic, moral, and social consequences. It is probably true that the causes of the first war were founded on Turkish imbecility, continental powerlessness, and the consciousness of increased strength on the part of the Balkan States, each of which felt called upon to protect the race and religion of its nationals threatened by the Ottoman policies. The unexpected success resulting from the first war developed questions of partition more difficult than the problems of conquest. Thus there followed a second war for equilibrium and freedom between the conquering States—a sad and silly conflict, undoing practically all that was accomplished by the first. The report presents a composite photograph of the inevitable horrors of even a modern war.

The work of the investigators has been charged with partiality. Whether such partiality exists or not we do not presume to say. Surely there was no motive for it, and we are convinced that it figures little in the picture presented. Each of the nations passes in review, reeking and repulsive in proportion to its opportunity, guilty of horrors unspeakable. One naturally asks, Where were the solemn agreements subscribed to by each of the belligerent nations in 1907 at The Hague? How can such things be in the twentieth century? We are inclined to agree with Baron d'Estournelles de Constant, who finds the real culprits to be not the Balkan peoples nor the European governments, but those misleaders of public opinion who spread disquieting rumors and incite nations into mutual enmities. The chapters on "War and International Law," "Economic Results of the Wars," "The Moral and Social Consequences of the Wars and the Outlook for the Future of Macedonia," present practically all that one would wish under these headings. The report recommends an International Commission—a permanent institution with government sanction, an organization capable of exercising control—indeed, of foreseeing offenses and minimizing the devastations of war. The creation of such a com-

mission may be impracticable, but it certainly is needed. The picture of the once victorious Balkan States acting now as beggars, struggling to build up again their lost resources, with their cripples, ruins, sufferings, immorality, and poverty, is distressing enough.

The origin of the two Balkan wars, the behavior of the Bulgarians, Turks, and Servians toward each other, and the economic results of the wars are supported by many documents found in the appendices. In the place of an index, unfortunately omitted, there is at the end of the book an analysis of each of the chapters.

**THE UNITED STATES AND PEACE.** By William Howard Taft. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1914. 182 pp. Price, \$1.00 net.

This volume contains the four addresses delivered by Ex-President Taft in New York in the winter of 1913, under the auspices of the New York Peace Society. The lectures were also published at the same time in *The Independent*. The first chapter treats of the limitations and implications of the Monroe Doctrine; the second of aliens and their treaty rights. Chapter III, "Arbitration Treaties that Mean Something," refutes the Senate's claim that it has not power to consent to treaties of general arbitration. In Chapter IV Mr. Taft discusses the history of experiments in world federation. There is a foreword by Hamilton Holt, in which he calls the volume a "declaration of interdependence." The wide knowledge and experience of the author make all that he has to say of unusual interest and value.

**THE COMING PEOPLE.** By Charles F. Dole. Boston: The World Peace Foundation. 1914. 224 pages. Seventh edition. Paper bound. Price, 35 cents.

This little volume was first issued in 1897, and is now taken over by the World Peace Foundation as one of its series. The author has added a new chapter on "The Coming World Order," in which he shows that a truly civilized fellowship of all the peoples of the world is the normal outcome of the processes he has traced in the preceding chapters. He describes the actual movements of the present toward this conclusion, the necessity for it, and the irresistible forces uniting to bring it about.

**THE WORLD SET FREE.** By H. G. Wells. E. P. Dutton & Co. 1914. 308 pp. \$1.35 net.

H. G. Wells, with keen prophetic vision, has seen the world in reaction after a cheap, unlimited energy has been launched upon it. "The World Set Free" is a novel without a hero, and without a plot in the ordinary sense. The action of the romance is centered about the radioactivity of the atom, and the purpose is to show this energy fitted into its right place and the world readjusted after a narrow escape from annihilation through its force. In a series of word pictures he shows us first a body of students of science aware of the hidden energy of the atom locked up in solids, but entirely unable to get at the secret of its control. Finally comes a man who "picked this lock" and released upon the world a "power such that a man might carry in his hand enough energy to light a city for a year." Foolishly the force is utilized to make a new destructive imple-

ment of war, the atomic bomb; not an instantaneous explosive, but a continuous one. With this awful weapon in the hands of man, a "grave international situation" is announced, a world-wide war breaks out, and chaos results. Bombs hurled from aeroplanes into the heart of the greatest cities melt all the grandeur of ages into a volcanic mass. Out of this grave situation the world is brought by the establishment of a world government. In the final chapter we see this government established on a permanent basis, and flashes are thrown on the new Utopia, in which all economic and social problems have been solved.

All this is a vision seen by Mr. Wells, but one might imagine it to be the history which will be read a century or more hence; or, better still, one might hope that it would arouse the world to the futility of such widespread destruction to reach an ideal.

**EFFETS ÉCONOMIQUES DE LA MOBILISATION AUSTRO-HONGROISE.** By Raphael-Georges Lévy. Paris: Félix Alcan, 108 Boulevard Saint-Germain. 1914. 66 pages. Price, 1 fr. 50 (30 cents).

This is one of the publications of the Institut International de la Paix. It was written in 1913 to show the effects which fear of war may have on the economic condition of a country, and the economic disturbance caused by excessive armaments. The author reminds his readers of the old adage that sometimes the fear of evil is worse than the evil itself, and that the consequences of a panic which subsequent events prove to have been unjustified may be extremely grave. He discusses the effect of the spending of millions on the mobilization of the army, the taking of men from productive work, the effect on credit of the fear of war, and the like.

**POEMS OF HUMAN PROGRESS.** By James Harcourt West. Cloth, gilt top. 328 pages. \$1.50 net. Boston: The Tufts College Press. 1914.

In addition to about seventy new poems, this volume by Mr. West contains practically the whole of his previous book, "The Ninth Paradise." The two longest are the Tufts College Phi Beta Kappa poem, "Man's Triumph Era," and "The Epic of Man," read in 1908 before the forty-first annual meeting of the Free Religious Association of America. In this latter work occur these strong lines:

"Still pray for peace and still rear battleships?  
Nay, brothers, if ye long for beauteous peace,  
Beseech no more the seven-fold silent heavens  
While still up-piling armaments of death;  
But you yourselves bring peace—by brotherhood!"

Mr. West, who may not be known to many of our readers, is a publisher, author, and Unitarian minister. He was the founder of the *New Ideal Magazine*, is a member of the editorial board of *Unity*, and secretary of the Free Religious Association of America. Some of the poems of nature are exquisitely conceived, while many of the sonnets are worthy of high rank. The humanitarian element is strong in all the productions, and there are many stirring appeals for the brotherhood of man and the casting aside of war. The poems are written with vigor, originality, loftiness of thought, and felicity of diction.